

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /074 W
-----083815 030852Z /21
O 030843Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO
SECSTATE WASHDC 4069

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 03469

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BE SP
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF SPANISH SOCIALISTS TO U.S.

REF: BRUSSELS 6344 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE MUGICA/SOLANA VISIT TO WASHINGTON, FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH SPANISH AMBASSADOR AGUIRRE, WE ARE REPEATING MADRID 3148 DESCRIBING SOME ASPECTS OF THE PRESS TREATMENT HERE OF THE TRIP WHICH APPARENTLY BOTHERED AGUIRRE. WE ALSO ARE REPEATING STATE 077423 DESCRIBING THE VISIT AND STATE 83354 ON SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH RESPECT TO SOLANA'S SUGGESTIONS THAT (A) THE U.S. MIGHT ONLY FAVOR A NATO INVITATION TO SPAIN IF THE MAJORITY IN THE SPANISH PARLIAMENT IS SUFFICIENTLY LARGE, AND (B) THE U.S. HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING WITH RESPECT TO THE F-16.

2. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO TELL AGUIRRE:

-- THE U.S. INVITATION WAS TO MUGICA IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES; MUGICA IN TURN ASKED TO TAKE SOLANA WITH HIM;

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-- THE VISIT WAS SUPPORTIVE OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S OWN EFFORTS TO BROADEN SOCIALIST PERCEPTIONS ON DEFENSE MATTERS;

-- WE ENVISAGE A SUBSEQUENT INVITATION TO THE CHAIR AN OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE (A UCD -- GOVERNMENT PARTY) FIGURE;

-- WHILE SOLANA (MORE THAN MUGICA, WHO IS THE MORE IMPORTANT FIGURE) DISTORTED SOME ASPECTS OF WHAT HE WAS TOLD IN WASHINGTON, WE DO NOT REGARD THIS AS NEARLY SO IMPORTANT AS THE OVER-ALL POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE TRIP;

-- SOLANA TOLD US, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT TWO OF THE MAJOR CONCLUSIONS FROM THE TRIP WERE THE NEED FOR CAREFUL STUDY LEADING TO A PRACTICAL SOCIALIST POSTURE ON DEFENSE, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CARRYING OUT SUCH A POLICY IN COLLABORATION WITH, NOT IN OPPOSITION TO, THE U.S. (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON THIS CONVERSATION);

-- MUGICA AND SOLANA GO NEXT TO THE FRG AND THEN TO SWEDEN; THEREAFTER THEY MAY WISH TO VISIT BRUSSELS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID03469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780143-0493
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780499/aaaadgtu.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 89ea80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 6344
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3094211
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF SPANISH SOCIALISTS TO U.S.
TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, BE, SP, US
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89ea80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014